

Michigan State Agency Status Report #3 On Hurricane Katrina EMAC and Energy Emergency

This report provides a cumulative summary of the major activities that have occurred regarding the State of Michigan's response to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort during the period from Friday, September 2 through Wednesday, September 7 as of 9:00 AM. This report includes those activities and efforts that have been coordinated through the State Emergency Operations Center.

September 7, 2005

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Hurricane Impacts. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall from the Gulf of Mexico as a Category 4 Hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 135 miles per hour. The hurricane was very large with hurricane force winds extending 125 miles from the center. The storm had severe impacts on the Gulf States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, as well as some inland states such as Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky, before finally dissipating.

Storm surge flooding, direct impacts from winds and rain, failed infrastructure including utilities, failed dike segments and resultant flooding has caused widespread displacement, loss of life, property, and services. Flooding is as much as 20 feet above normal tide levels, with runoff causing levels to worsen over several days, even after the hurricane had passed. Although flood levels are no longer worsening, public health and safety concerns have continued to increase.

Supplementing Resources through the EMAC. The affected states are part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and thus are able to request assistance from other states, including Michigan, that are a part of the compact. This compact, coordinated at the national level by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), provides the most organized, responsible, and coordinated, and effective means for providing resources and assistance of all types to the affected states, and localities within them. The EMAC was ratified during the second session of the 104th Congress and became Public Law 104-321 in October of 1996. (In January 2001, Michigan became the 43rd state to join the EMAC.)

Individuals who wish to assist in disaster response and recovery activities are, at this time, advised to make a contribution in the form of a monetary donation. Financial assistance has been identified as the most effective, efficient, organized and appropriate type of assistance that can be provided at this time. Information about contributions can be found at the Michigan government web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/>, and at www.fema.gov.

Individuals and organizations are currently advised NOT to self-deploy to the areas affected by the disaster events. This is because such assistance needs to be organized to coordinate effectively with agencies and efforts that are already under way in those areas. Many of the response activities in and near the disaster areas require extensive training and health-related preparations. It is important that current efforts not be unduly diverted or distracted by efforts to accommodate any unauthorized or unrequested personnel who may not have not been sufficiently prepared, trained, and coordinated with existing response frameworks.

INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN MICHIGAN THAT WISH TO VOLUNTEER AND/OR GIVE SUPPLIES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE SHOULD CALL MICHIGAN'S "HURRICANE HOTLINE" AT 1-888-535-6136.

Michigan's Response through the EMAC. The State of Michigan has identified resources and types of assistance that can be provided to affected states through the EMAC, some of which are already being deployed to the requesting states. A number of EMAC requests have been fulfilled by Michigan while a number of others are in the process of being fulfilled. Michigan has also prepared, and continues to prepare, various resources to accommodate evacuees from the affected areas.

Michigan's Plan for Evacuees. One of the primary efforts has been the development of the "Michigan Relocation Plan for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees," a nine-page document that provides a multi-phase framework for Michigan to receive, transition, and aid in permanently establishing evacuees from New Orleans and other affected areas. The plan covers the gamut of human service and logistical issues associated with the staging and permanent placement of evacuees coming into Michigan. The plan was developed by the Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police, with assistance provided by a number of state agencies within the State Emergency Operations Center in Lansing. Through this plan, the State of Michigan has identified temporary housing for several thousand evacuees using facilities such as the Fort Custer National Guard Training Facility near Battle Creek (up to 1,000 evacuees maximum at one time) and the National Guard's Camp Grayling (up to 5,000 evacuees maximum at one time). This plan continues to be revised as the situational circumstances change.

On September 5, two planes carrying 289 evacuees landed at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base and the evacuees were then transported to the nearby Fort Custer Training Facility for temporary shelter and further care and processing. Other evacuees have been transported to Michigan by bus and private automobile. Currently, there are more than 500 evacuees in Michigan. Most are at Fort Custer, but others are being temporarily sheltered at several hotels in the metro Detroit area. At this point, the State of Michigan does not know the exact number of evacuees that will be coming to the state. Governor Granholm has pledged to accept up to 10,000 evacuees, but the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is still working with other states to determine an acceptable evacuee allocation. It may be several days before Michigan knows exactly how many evacuees it can expect to receive.

Energy Issues. In addition, the significance of the Gulf of Mexico region to the energy sectors of the national economy has affected the supply and pricing of fuel throughout the country. Because of the vital need for maintaining an adequate supply of such resources, especially to support emergency response and recovery needs, Governor Jennifer Granholm has issued executive orders stemming from a declared state of energy emergency. These executive orders promote the availability and effective use of a continued supply of energy in Michigan (see "Office of the Governor" section below for details).

STATE OF MICHIGAN ACTIONS:

To date, the following major actions have been taken by Michigan state agencies in providing assistance to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort and/or addressing the impacts of the hurricane on Michigan. (All relief actions, where appropriate, have been under the umbrella of the national EMAC.)

Office of the Governor

- *Organizing and Coordinating.* Governor Granholm has been active in coordinating the actions of Michigan state agencies in identifying and allocating resources to assist the hurricane-ravaged areas. In addition, Governor Granholm has helped to organize public, private, and nonprofit assistance and volunteer activities to support both the affected areas and the needs of evacuees from those areas that will be housed in Michigan.

- *State Emergency Operations Center.* Governor Granholm activated the State Emergency Operations Center in Lansing at 8:30 AM on Friday, September 2, 2005 to coordinate information and activities among all state agencies as well as other agencies and organizations that they work with. The Governor and her staff continue to work on numerous issues associated with the hurricane relief efforts.
- *National Guard Deployment.* Governor Granholm has ordered the deployment of over 450 Michigan National Guard troops to the affected areas to aid in relief efforts.
- *State of Disaster Declaration.* On September 4, Governor Granholm issued a “state of disaster” declaration for Michigan under 1976 PA 390, via Executive Order 2005-21. This action was necessary in order to activate pertinent sections of the Michigan Emergency Management Plan and to enable Michigan to continue providing mutual aid and other state assets to the hurricane relief effort.
- *Federal Declaration Request.* On September 4, Governor Granholm submitted a formal request to President Bush for a federal emergency or major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended) to provide assistance to Michigan to deal with the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Governor Granholm’s letter of request to the President was submitted through the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V office in Chicago, Illinois, per standard procedure. In her letter, Governor Granholm specifically requested “Category B / Emergency Protective Measures” assistance under the federal Public Assistance Grant Program and other appropriate authorities.
- *Energy Emergency.* On August 31, Governor Granholm issued three executive orders to address energy related issues in Michigan caused by Hurricane Katrina. Executive Order 2005-16 declared a “State of Energy Emergency” in Michigan in accordance with 1982 PA 191. The State of Energy Emergency remains in effect until November 29, 2005 unless terminated earlier by the Governor. Executive Order 2005-17 temporarily waived regulations relating to motor carriers and drivers transporting gasoline, diesel fuel, and jet fuel. Executive Order 2005-18 provided for a temporary suspension of rules for gasoline vapor pressure (for the duration of the State of Energy Emergency).

Department of Agriculture

- The department continues to examine and monitor the state’s gasoline supply inventory.
- The department has veterinarians that can coordinate (with Michigan State Police personnel) about animal issues for the affected areas and their evacuees. Veterinary response trailers are available for deployment.
- The department can provide laboratory assistance with food and water testing for the affected areas.
- The department is assessing the availability of food safety staff and sanitarians, in response to an EMAC request.

Department of Attorney General

- The department has been working on investigations of gas gouging complaints. It has logged nearly 1,500 such complaints so far.
- The department can support other state agencies in researching issues of legality and liability, as relief and recovery actions are undertaken.

Department of Civil Rights

- The department notes that there is intense media scrutiny and much speculation about events related to the disaster, some of which should deal more sensitively with the issues of equity and anxiety that surround these events. (For example, it is inappropriate for U. S. citizens affected by a natural disaster to be called “refugees,” as some media outlets have done. Evacuee is the most accurate term.)
- The department is preparing to provide sensitivity training to personnel who will interact with evacuees relocated to Michigan.

Department of Civil Service

- Provisions will be in place for state employees whose skills are requested by affected states, so that if they go to assist in relief and recovery activities, they can be provided with pay and other compensation that normally correspond to such duties as part of government service. In the case of employees who may volunteer for service outside of their paid government duties, school and community leave time may be used but leave time should be cleared to ensure that no gap in services is created by employee disaster activities.
- The initial assessment regarding the financing of these arrangements indicates that employee pay may include overtime for disaster-related work, and that employee compensation for such duties will be paid by the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan will be reimbursed by the state(s) requesting the assistance, which will in turn be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Overtime requests may need to be cleared by the Department of Civil Service. Military leave may also be processed for documented disaster relief efforts.

Department of Community Health

- The department has a roster of available volunteers ready to help both the disaster area states and the states that are recipients for evacuees.
- The department has coordinated with the Michigan Hospital Association, and Michigan hospitals will be able to take some patients from the disaster areas. Laboratory work can also be performed to assist the affected states.
- The department stresses that persons preparing to assist in disaster relief efforts need to ensure that their tetanus, diphtheria, and hepatitis B vaccines are up-to-date.
- The DCH is operating the Michigan Hurricane Hotline with 8 operators from 7:00 AM – 12:00 AM (midnight). The hotline is taking information about goods and services donations available for hurricane relief.
- The department coordinated the mobilization of EMS resources by FEMA through the American Ambulance Association.
- The department has worked with the MSP planning team to identify DCH issues for Phase I and Phase II of evacuee arrival in Michigan.

Department of Corrections

- The department has identified two vacant prison facilities and a youth correctional facility that can be used to provide housing should such special needs be requested. There is also a “prison-built” program that can be used to provide for the construction of homes, structures, walls, etc.
- The department is providing bedding for evacuees at Fort Custer.

Department of Education

- The department has sent notification to all superintendents throughout the state to facilitate the provision of educational services to any evacuees in need of them. Issues to be addressed include state aid for some students, the waiver of immunization requirements (in cases where documentation of immunization has been destroyed in the disaster), and any issues of anxiety that may be expressed about these provisions. (For example, student testing and results comparison can be adjusted so that any difference in performance by new students will not count for that first year in the new school.)
- Tens of thousands of school buses are in use throughout the state, a good number of which may potentially be available at some point for temporary use in disaster relief and recovery activities. There are also many available buildings, food service trucks, and other education-related resources that may be useful in providing services to evacuees.

Department of Environmental Quality

- The department has identified air and water quality specialists who are available to provide assistance to affected states as needed.

Department of History, Arts and Libraries

- If needed, the department can provide assistance to the affected areas in the preservation and conservation of cultural resources, including records management and archival services.

Department of Human Services

- The American Human Services Organization is waiving some food stamp rules to ease the provision of food assistance to evacuees. Cash assistance can also be put in place for disaster-affected persons. Enrollment assistance is available for persons needing food stamps and other services.
- Housing/shelter availability can include special provisions in public shelter facilities and also in juvenile offender facilities, if needed.
- Interested parties can contact their local Department of Human Services offices to inquire about coordinating their donated time and resources with disaster response efforts and the housing and serving of evacuees. If information about local office locations is needed, the general department number can be used (517-373-2035).

Department of Information Technology

- A web page for disaster assistance and contributions has been established by the department on the Michigan government web site (at <http://www.michigan.gov>).
- The department has personnel and resources available to assist affected states in establishing information systems, establishing call centers, providing technical support, etc., as needed and requested.
- The department advises citizens and officials to be aware of the possibility of fraudulent or false web sites that may be exploiting citizen efforts for personal gain or otherwise misleading citizens away from the legitimate agencies that are providing disaster relief. The Michigan government website includes a list of recognized relief organizations that can be contacted for disaster-related contributions and donations.
- The department resolved issues pertaining to GroupWise to ensure continued information flow for the SEOC and SHOC (State Health Operations Center).

Department of Labor and Economic Growth

- The department is monitoring oil supplies and has been in contact with major oil companies to encourage them to reduce prices as rapidly as possible to correspond with improvements in the Midwest's supply situation.
- The MIOSHA has staff ready to provide safety and sanitary assessments, if needed.
- The MSHDA is ready to place evacuees into housing, as needed.
- The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety is coordinating the availability of fire personnel and equipment for mobilization to the State of Louisiana under the EMAC.

Department of Management and Budget

- The department is making a thousand bedding units available for use.
- The department can provide technical and procedural assistance with regard to the use of leased space, making repairs, developing and implementing recovery plans, etc.
- The department is reviewing its surplus property program to assess physical resource availability, if needed.
- Ten trucks and drivers were identified as available for use in materials transport. Some aircraft are also available (see DMVA entry below).
- The department is working with a state contract travel agent to create an inventory of Michigan hotels willing to provide free and discounted rooms to evacuees.
- The DMB access control crew is processing evacuees (identification badge issuance) at Fort Custer in Battle Creek.
- The department is coordinating with Departments of Corrections and Military and Veterans Affairs to address bedding needs for evacuees at Fort Custer.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

- Nearly 500 National Guard troops have been deployed to the disaster area.
- Two C-130 aircraft from the Selfridge Air National Guard Base are transporting VA patients out of the disaster area, and two more C-130s are available to help move evacuees if needed. Each of these aircraft has the capacity to transport up to 90 persons.
- A military police battalion, military police company, water purification units, and trucks / drivers are also ready for deployment.
- The department is coordinating with the Office of the Budget to arrange for funds to be provided for troop deployments.
- The department has been actively responding to EMAC requests from the affected states. The latest EMAC deployments from the department include:
 - A military police company to Mississippi;
 - A military police company to Louisiana with battalion headquarters;
 - A water purification system with operators to Mississippi;
 - Two light armored vehicles with crew to Louisiana;
 - One EMEDS unit package to Louisiana with seven personnel;
 - Two personnel to Mississippi to help set up a EMEDS unit;
 - 65 personnel for construction engineering to rebuild runways, roads, and re-establishing telephone service and electricity;
 - Six soldiers with three trucks to accompany 111 Michigan law enforcement personnel for equipment transportation and set-up on scene; and

- Coordination of evacuee flights involving military aircraft.

Department of Natural Resources

- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has deployed 50 conservation officers with 25 flat boats to Louisiana under an EMAC request. (Note: two of the 25 boats have been returned to Michigan because they are not needed at this time. They may be re-deployed later in the recovery effort. The remaining 23 boats are being temporarily stored in Mississippi for possible deployment under the EMAC.)
- The department can assist the affected states with health assessments, should the capabilities of the Southeast Disease Cooperative require supplementing.

Department of State Police

- The Emergency Management Division is coordinating Michigan governmental activities, as well as providing liaison with local / nonprofit / private resources, governments in other states, and FEMA, through the State Emergency Operations Center.
- The Emergency Management Division is coordinating the development and implementation of the "Michigan Relocation Plan for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees."
- The Emergency Management Division is coordinating the state's efforts under the national Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The EMD/MSP is working with other state and local agencies and organizations to review and meet EMAC requests for which Michigan has available resources.
- The Emergency Management Division is preparing regular Situation Reports that provide a summary of the state's involvement in ongoing or anticipated relief and recovery efforts.
- The MSP has forensic resources available to deploy to affected areas, upon request.
- The MSP can provide assistance in conducting background checks of individuals, as needed.
- The MSP organized a statewide response to an EMAC request to send a cadre of law enforcement officers to Louisiana on Monday, September 5 to assist with law enforcement activities. One hundred eleven (111) officers from the MSP, county and local police departments are part of this deployment. A fuel truck will accompany the convoy to ensure an uninterrupted fuel supply while traveling and conducting operations in the affected area.

Department of Transportation

- The department is doing an internal tally to assess how much of its equipment, pilots, and other personnel are available to assist with answering EMAC requests that may be made by the affected states. The department also has points of contact with various private sector organizations that they are surveying, to determine what additional Michigan resources will be available for deployment or remote use.
- The department has identified a half dozen major bus companies that are interested in cooperating with disaster relief and recovery activities. In addition, there is the potential for motor vehicle manufacturers to identify extra / surplus vehicles that could be used in the disaster areas or for supporting roles related to such activities.
- The department has a 40-foot tractor trailer that can be used in relief and recovery activities. The vehicle includes bridge repair capabilities.
- The department is providing waivers for oversized and overweight haulers responding to hurricane relief efforts. The waivers allow haulers to move during normally restricted hours.

- The department contracted with an oil company to haul fuel for the law enforcement convoy going to Louisiana to meet an EMAC request (see Department of State Police report above).
- The department hired a trucking company with flat bed trailers to haul 25 DNR boats to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- The department worked with the Battle Creek Transit Authority to coordinate transportation of evacuees from the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base to Fort Custer. (Note: this issue was later amended at the local level. School buses were used instead of transit resources.)
- The department is working on development of a transportation assistance package for evacuees who get relocated to Michigan. The DOT is working with the DMB and inter-city bus companies, transit agencies, Amtrak, and rental car companies. The package is being developed to meet the transportation needs of evacuees.

Department of Treasury

- The department can provide assistance with financial management and support functions for other state agencies.
- The department is looking into the financial options available for Michigan students who may have been attending colleges in the affected disaster areas (i.e., to see about easing or forgiving loan requirements, for example).

The Office of Services to the Aging (Department of Community Health)

- The OSA is ready to consider requests for assistance, and notes that there is a congregate meal capacity available through the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and local service providers that can potentially be used to serve evacuees.